

# **2008 Virginia Governor's Foreign Language Academies: A Global Village**



*Guide for Students and Parents*

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education

## 2008 GOVERNOR'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMIES GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Dear Student,

Welcome to the 2008 Governor's Foreign Language Academies application process. Please be aware that students must be nominated by their schools, and that schools are limited in the number of students they may nominate. Review the information carefully and speak with your foreign language teacher or school counselor to ensure that you meet all school and state deadlines.

The application process is a joint effort involving the student, the local public or private school, the public school division, and the Department of Education (VDOE). This document contains general program information about the Governor's Foreign Language Academies. The application contains portions that you and your parents must complete, and portions to be completed by two teachers and your principal or headmaster. All parts of the application are available in Word and .pdf formats, as appropriate, at the following Web site:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/GAindex.html>

All applications must be printed and signed by the student and parent/guardian in order to be considered. It is important to note that incomplete applications will not be considered. Please review the information in this guide carefully and consult your school counselor for deadlines.

Included in this *Guide for Students and Parents*:

- Timeline for Submission of Application Documents
- Introduction
- Academic Programs and Dates
- Program Descriptions
- Nomination Criteria for Applicants
- Student Selection Process
- Standards of Conduct
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Helpful Hints

Good Luck!

Virginia Governor's Foreign Language Academies  
Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

**NOTE:** Governor's Foreign Language Academies and the Summer Residential Governor's Schools (SRGS) have separate applications and timelines. The 2008 SRGS applications are available from the following Web site:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/SRGS/>

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<b>TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS</b>		
<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
	October 2007	Applications made available by the VDOE on Web site and program announced to students.
	Mid-November 2007	Suggested deadline for student to notify foreign language teacher of interest in applying.
	Early December 2007	Suggested time for schools to convene local selection committees to choose nominees.
	December 14, 2007	Deadline for foreign language department chairperson to order testing materials for immersion academies (French, German, Spanish) and Latin academy.
	December 2007 to early-January 2008	Suggested time for schools to administer language tests for immersion academy and Latin academy nominees. (There are no tests for Japanese and Russian academies.)
	January 11, 2008	Suggested deadline for students to submit completed applications to local school and for schools to notify school divisions (foreign language supervisors or gifted education coordinators) or private school regional coordinators of names of student nominees.
	<b>January 17, 2008</b>	Deadline for school divisions to enter student information online through a secure Web site and mail signed verification/nominee report forms to the VDOE. Deadline for schools to mail student application packets.
	Mid-April 2008	All nominees will be notified of their status, and status reports will be sent to all division or private school gifted education and/or foreign language coordinators.
	May 5, 2008	Students indicate their acceptance of the invitation to participate or desire to remain on the alternate list.
	May 30, 2008	Program participants receive a student packet with detailed information from the VDOE.
	June 10, 2008	Program participants mail required forms directly to the ACADEMY DIRECTOR, not to the VDOE.
	June 21, 2008	Check-in and opening ceremonies for French, German, and Spanish Academies.
	June 22, 2008	Check-in and opening ceremonies for Japanese, Latin, and Russian Academies.
	July 13, 2008	Joint closing ceremonies for all foreign language academies.

Please make note below of additional dates provided by your school counselor or foreign language teacher for your reference later in the process.

# 2008 GOVERNOR'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMIES GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

## INTRODUCTION

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Since 1986, the Virginia Department of Education has sponsored Governor's Foreign Language Academies, summer residential programs for Virginia's most motivated and talented foreign language students. As of August 2007, approximately 6,250 students have completed one of the six programs. Bringing the six separate academies together as a Global Village in 2004 has allowed each of the academies to maintain its individuality as well as to offer activities to expand global awareness, multi-cultural understanding, and international education.

The academies are one of the most notable developments in foreign language study to have occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia. They have come to signify, even for teachers who have not had students participate, what language instruction is all about – communication. The focus of the academies is on using the foreign language in a functional and meaningful way.

A distinguishing feature of the academies is that everyone wants to be there and wants to learn. Excellent students and excellent faculty create a highly stimulating environment. Students and faculty work closely together, and the closing ceremony is always a bittersweet occasion. Most describe the language academies as a mind broadening experience, and the participants leave as changed young people.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DATES

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French Academy	60 students	June 21 - July 13, 2008	Virginia Commonwealth University  Richmond, Virginia
Spanish Academy			
German Academy	45 students	June 22 - July 13, 2008	
Latin Academy			
Russian Studies Academy	38 students		
Japanese Language Academy			

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

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The *Governor's Foreign Language Academies: A Global Village* is a three-week residential program for tenth- and eleventh-grade foreign language students in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The program is housed on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University and is funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia and local school divisions or private schools.

The program is designed to provide a unique and exciting opportunity for outstanding students who are interested in pursuing language studies in an intensive environment. Each language academy provides a curriculum that integrates classroom instruction with a wealth of extra- and co-curricular activities. A typical student schedule involves classes during the morning that are not typical of foreign language classes offered in schools, such as history, literary topics, art history, and current civilization, as well as language courses such as grammar or phonetics. Immersion students are introduced to a third, less-commonly taught language as one of their classes, and Latin students are introduced to ancient Greek. Additional activities may include seminars, intra- and inter-Academy competitions, cultural simulations, field trips, sports, and social activities. Evening and weekend activities that are integral to the goals of the program

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include recreation, special events such as concerts or plays, lectures by visiting scholars, movies, and student performances.

### **French, German, and Spanish Academies (Full-Immersion)**

The three immersion programs provide an intensive experience and unique challenge for students who have excelled in language study to continue their study of that language in a total immersion environment. There will be formal classes, most of which are during the mornings. In these classes, the language is used to present various topics. The topics vary depending upon the faculty, but a sample from previous academies includes History of France, The Media in Germany, Excerpts from Literature, Latin American Music, Life in France Today, etc. Native speakers are often a part of the faculty. If possible, students are introduced to an additional language not commonly taught in the schools. That language is chosen according to availability of instructors who must be able to speak the language of the academy and use it to teach a third language. In the past we have offered Korean, Russian, or Arabic in French; Russian or Turkish in German; and Greek, Italian, Russian, or German in Spanish. This is often cited as one of the most enlightening, valuable, and enjoyable features of the academy. Sports, music, dance, theater, creative projects, cooking, field trips, production of a memory DVD, and other activities complement the instructional program.

Students in these full-immersion programs will be expected to conduct all communications in the language(s) of their academy, and may be dismissed for intentionally or repeatedly speaking English. Students of the immersion programs should also make every effort to AVOID hearing and reading English (or any language not of their academy), except in the situations mentioned below. Therefore, you also may not bring English-language music or printed material with you.

Of course, students may use English in a few situations: when interacting with law enforcement or emergency personnel, when seeking health care, or during church services. A student may also bring printed religious material in English. For other circumstances immersion students will be provided with a “passport” that they may show to others, indicating that they do understand English but are not allowed to speak it. Students may also write and receive letters home in English.

At approximately 16 hours per day for 21 days, students speak, listen, read, write, and think in the target language at least 336 hours—more than double the amount possible during a typical high school course. You may think that speaking French, German, or Spanish for three weeks is formidable; however, over 3,600 students have successfully completed the immersion programs since 1986.

### **Latin Academy**

The Latin Academy provides an intensive experience for students who have excelled in the study of Latin to continue their study in a milieu unavailable in the regular school environment. The Latin Academy is designed to provide a greater knowledge of the language and related cultural topics than are typically offered in the regular school curriculum. In the past such topics as non-literary Latin, philosophy, composition, sight reading, comedy, grammar, drama, ancient art, and numismatics have made up the program. Students will also be introduced to Classical Greek and have an opportunity to study and discuss some of the great literature and philosophy of the western world. Any, all, or additional topics as they relate to the ancient world may constitute the program this summer. Olympic games, sports, films, music, Greek dancing, guest speakers, cultural activities, field trips, and other topics may be featured during the academy. A thematic approach will be used to unite all facets of the program.

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### Japanese Language and Russian Studies Academies (Partial-Immersion)

The partial-immersion programs in Japanese and Russian provide a unique and exciting opportunity for interested students to be introduced to the Russian or Japanese cultures and languages, which are not widely taught across the Commonwealth. Advanced classes are also available to students who have studied Russian or Japanese. The students will be introduced to the history, literature and culture of the countries where the language is spoken, as well as receiving instruction in the language. Contemporary issues will be analyzed. Activities complementing the instructional program will include art, dance, music, crafts, sports, creative projects, food preparation, and field trips. The staff will differentiate instruction to accommodate both those who have had some previous study in Japanese or Russian and those who have not.

### NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

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Students must be nominated by their schools and all applicants must be residents\* of Virginia. Schools are strongly encouraged to review the selection criteria with students and to assist them in recognizing the competition they face at the state level. The school must order testing material and provide appropriate, proctored testing locations for students applying to the French, German, Latin, and Spanish Academies.

High schools submitting nominations may not discriminate upon the basis of religious conviction, race, color, gender, age, disability, or national origin. Schools eligible to nominate students to the academies include accredited public high schools from a Virginia public school division and private schools that are accredited by the Virginia Council for Private Education or other accrediting agency. Home-schooled students may apply through the public school they are eligible to attend tuition-free. A state selection process will determine who is accepted to participate.

The number of applicants per academy allowed per school is based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) in grades 10, 11, and 12 of that school, as of September 30, 2007.

Enrollment in grades 10-12 as of September 30, 2007	Number of nominees to French, German, Latin, or Spanish	Number of nominees to Japanese or Russian
1-750	1 per academy	1 per academy
More than 750	2 per academy	

All nominees must meet the eligibility requirements below.

Eligible students:

- must be at least juniors but may be mature sophomores during the current school year, 2007-2008;
- must not have graduated before the opening of the academy;
- must be eligible to attend public school in Virginia tuition-free (i.e., be residents\* of Virginia);
- must be nominated by an accredited public high school from a Virginia public school division or by a private school that is accredited by the Virginia Council for Private Education or other accrediting agency;
- may apply to only one Governor's summer residential program or foreign language academy per year;
- may attend only one Governor's summer residential program or foreign language academy during their high school career; and

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- shall be genuinely interested in attending the Governor's Foreign Language Academies and have the emotional maturity, stability, and self-discipline to live away from home for an extended period.

*\*For information regarding residency, please refer to Superintendent's Informational Memorandum Number 140, issued by the Virginia Department of Education on July 27, 2007, available at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2007/inf140.html>.*

Students of the **French, German, and Spanish Academies** must meet the additional criteria below.

Eligible students:

- must have completed at least level three of the language prior to the beginning of the academy;
- must have developed good proficiency in using this language; and
- must be willing to use the target language for all social and academic interactions.

**Please note: The immersion academies are not designed for students with native or near-native fluency** in the target language. The following could cause an applicant to be eliminated in the selection process:

- Prior residence in a country where the language of the academy is spoken;
- Extensive travel experiences in a country where the language of the academy is spoken;
- Extensive immersion experiences with the language of the academy; or
- Residence in a family where the language of the academy is spoken in the home.

**“Extensive” is defined as equivalent to an academy in length and/or intensity.** Students with highly developed oral language skills do not find the rigors of the academy as challenging or rewarding as students of lesser proficiency who, for the most part, have learned the language entirely in a classroom setting. Furthermore, it is difficult for staff to accommodate students whose language skills are already sufficiently developed. It is suggested that such students consider application to one of the other foreign language/area studies academies, i.e., Japanese or Russian.

Students applying to the **Latin Academy** must have completed at least level two of the language prior to the beginning of the academy.

Students applying to the **Japanese and Russian Academies** must have completed at least level two of ANY language prior to the beginning of the academy, but are not required to have previously studied the academy languages. Students currently studying Japanese and Russian are also encouraged to apply.

### STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

Students undergo a rigorous selection process that begins in the fall with the nominating process. Although open to all tenth- and eleventh-grade students in the Commonwealth (including home-schooled as well as out-of-state private school students whose parents reside in Virginia), each school division or private school region is limited to a specific number of nominees it may send forward per language. Between October and December, schools must choose which students they will officially nominate. Nominations must be made by a foreign language teacher, a guidance counselor, a principal, an assistant principal, or a supervisor.

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Students and parents may not make nominations. All nominations must be submitted by the school according to the instructions in the *Guide for School Personnel*, available online at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/GAindex.html>.

In December students must complete the application, which requires two teacher recommendations including rating scales and written narratives; the principal's or headmaster's recommendation; a student transcript; and an essay or testing in the language, depending on the academy.

Only a foreign language teacher, a guidance counselor, an assistant principal, a principal or a supervisor may request testing materials and submit nominations. That person must see that all aspects of the application are properly completed, assembled, and submitted as an integrated packet. All nominations must be made on the student application and verification (nominee) report forms provided by the Department of Education.

The nominating school must submit a complete application packet for each nominee. Student application packets, which must include the sealed envelopes with their testing materials, if applicable, must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the VDOE by Thursday, January 17, 2008. The process for assembling and mailing applications is described in a separate section of this Guide and in the *Guide for School Personnel* available from the Web site.

Between January 15 and March 1, the VDOE will process and verify completeness of applications, and prepare the materials for review by a statewide selection committee. The selection committee, made up of teachers, supervisors, and other language experts, will meet in March to carefully examine all application materials and evaluate student writing and speaking samples and/or grammar tests. Selection is competitive and based solely on committee review and evaluation of the applicant's qualifications. The selection committee will recommend participants and alternates, based on the strength of the student's application, language abilities (where applicable), and needs of the program. No individual nominee is guaranteed acceptance. See Appendix A for the selection committee's criteria.

By mid-April, students will receive a letter informing them of their status. Each academy is limited in the number of participants and alternates it can choose. Students invited as participants or alternates must indicate by May 5, 2008, whether they intend to accept the invitation. After May 5, qualified students of similar demographic backgrounds will be chosen to replace any students that have declined the invitation.

By May 30, students will receive a packet from the VDOE containing additional information relating to their academy. This packet will contain a variety of forms that must be returned to the academy director by June 10, as well as detailed information about what to bring and what to expect.

### **Testing for French, German, Latin, and Spanish Academy Nominees**

The testing materials must be requested separately by the foreign language department chairperson or testing coordinator at each school. The topics may not be requested by students or parents. The order form is available on the Internet at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/order.doc>. These testing materials must be requested by December 14, 2007.



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All immersion students take the same test, but must respond in their respective languages; therefore, all nominees from a particular school must be tested during the same block of time. Likewise, all nominees to the Latin Academy from a particular school must be tested during the same block of time. Both parts of the test (speaking tape and composition OR Latin grammar test and essay) must be completed in a supervised testing environment proctored by a school staff member who is not a current or former Latin or other foreign language teacher, e.g., an administrator or a counselor. Both parts of the test must be completed within the same block of time, not to exceed two hours. The student should make an appointment in advance with the person to perform these two functions. At the time of the testing, the student will be given sealed instructions containing topics and other information. Every effort should be made to deliver an audible and/or legible product of good content, organization, and structure. No one may provide assistance to the student in any way with either of these application components. If it is ascertained that this has happened, the applicant will be automatically disqualified.

Nominees to the Latin Academy must take a Latin grammar test and write an essay on a topic related to Latin history or mythology. Students should come prepared with paper and pencils.

Nominees to the French, German, and Spanish Academies must provide a speaking sample and write a composition in the target language. The student must provide his or her own cassette tape and writing materials. For the tape we suggest a recognized brand; inexpensive tapes frequently malfunction. The proctor should ensure that the tape recorder is set to the correct speed and that the equipment works properly prior to beginning. **Immersion students should be advised that their speaking and writing samples carry the most weight in the selection process.**

Nominees to the Japanese and Russian Academies must write an essay; the topic choices are included on the student application and the essay does not need to be proctored. Nominees to these academies may be beginners and will not be tested in the language of the Academy.

**Acceptance and attendance at the Foreign Language Academies is a three-week commitment.** Careful consideration needs to be taken of family needs and personal commitments prior to the submission of an application. Since spaces are highly competitive, students who can make a full commitment to the program are given highest priority. Leaves of absence may be granted ONLY for family and/or medical emergencies.

### **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

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Academy participants represent their school and school division or region. Each student acts as an ambassador of his/her area. Attendance at a Foreign Language Academy is a privilege that can be revoked. Academy students are expected to display common courtesy and respect for fellow students at all times.

***Failure to comply with any of the following standards will result in immediate dismissal from the program:***

- Students shall not possess or use alcohol or illegal drugs. (§ 4.1-305, 18.2-248, and 18.2-371.2 Code of Virginia)
- Students shall not smoke, use or possess any tobacco product.
- Students shall not possess or use any kind of weapon.

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- Students shall not leave campus or designated areas at any time without permission.
- Students shall not visit the residential areas of the opposite sex at any time, nor enter residence halls occupied by other groups on campus.
- Students shall not steal/borrow without the owner's permission.
- Students shall not treat faculty, staff, presenters, students, or others on campus in a disrespectful manner.
- Students shall not intentionally damage the property of others.
- Students shall not commit any act of violence.
- Students shall not bring a vehicle or ride in one unaccompanied by a staff member.

We are fortunate to serve the brightest and most motivated language students in Virginia. Therefore, disciplinary infractions are rare, and 98-99% of the students will finish the program with no problems. However, each summer we typically dismiss 3-5 students, most frequently for English spoken deliberately or repeatedly at an immersion academy, or for cell phone use or possession. In all cases of disciplinary issues or concerns, parents will be informed as soon as possible.

If you are dismissed from an academy prior to the closing, we will notify your school division superintendent or private school headmaster and will send copies of the letter to your school principal/headmaster, your nominating teacher, and your parents. Your local school may take additional disciplinary actions, at its discretion. Students that have been dismissed will not receive an academy certificate and may not indicate their attendance on college applications. If a student is dismissed from the academy, it shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to arrange for student transportation home or to assume the costs for transportation arranged by the academy director.

Due to the highly structured nature of the program, we would like you to be aware of the following rules in advance:

You are expected to:

- be on time;
- be prepared with needed materials;
- show respect and consideration to others;
- contribute positively to the community spirit of the academy;
- be responsible for your belongings;
- wear your color-coded lanyard with ID card at all times;
- not go anywhere outside of the residence hall complex without a staff member;
- not use telephones and e-mail; and
- NEVER be in rooms or on halls of the opposite sex.

### **Dress Guidelines**

To help ensure a respectful community of learners and an environment conducive to learning, the Global Village establishes these guidelines for student dress:

- Clothing should be neat, modest, comfortable and appropriate.
- Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.
- Shorts/skirts/dresses must be at least fingertip length.
- Clothing should avoid spaghetti straps, bare midriffs, cleavage, exposed undergarments, and offensive messages.

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- Outdoor temperatures are usually warm so bring light, mostly casual clothing; however, the director will provide students with information about more formal activities.
- Air conditioning keeps academic spaces chilly, so warmer attire is recommended indoors.

### Residence Halls

Roommate assignments are made very carefully to ensure that you meet as many fellow students as possible. Male and female students will live in separate wings or floors of the residence hall and will be able to meet only in common meeting areas. Teachers and Resident Advisors (RAs) will live in the dorm with you and will be available at all times.

### What to Bring

Detailed information will be provided in the student packet that you will receive from the academy director by May 30, 2008.

### What NOT to Bring

Students shall not bring the following items:

Alcoholic beverages	Computers	Televisions or DVD players
Bicycles, roller blades, or skateboards	Drugs – other than medication listed on the medical forms	Tobacco products
Candles or incense	Expensive jewelry or other items	Telephones, pagers, or wireless phones
Cars or other vehicles	Pets	Weapons, “look alikes” for theatre, or laser pointers

Additionally, immersion students shall not bring radios, i-Pods, CD players, or other similar devices.

### Correspondence/Communication with Home

You will not have access to e-mail or telephones during the academies, so we encourage parents and friends to send frequent letters and packages via postal mail. Students will be given time daily for correspondence.

Full-immersion students MAY write letters in English during time set aside daily for correspondence, as an exception to the usual rule. However, parents of immersion students must not send magazines or other items in English, other than the actual correspondence.

### Visitation

With the understanding that one of the purposes of the academy is to achieve a cohesive, self-contained environment in which students can learn and come to know one another with a minimum of external distractions, participants are allowed neither to receive nor make visits during the three-week session. Please understand that these guidelines are established to ensure that all participants derive maximum benefit from the program.

### Wireless Phone Policy

Each academy seeks to promote community among its members, recreating the culture(s) of the target language and helping students discover the individuals they are, not just the persons they are expected to be. This means fostering an environment with limited distractions. Over the past 20 years, we have found that students appreciate the ability to concentrate on new

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relationships within the community and leave behind, if only for a brief time, the demands and interruptions that everyday life imposes. The relationships that students build at the academies often last into adulthood, and many participants keep in touch and participate in informal reunions for many years.

We believe that wireless phones impede the fundamental goals of the academy experience. To that end, we expect that students and parents will respect our community formation process by leaving wireless phones at home. This policy is often more difficult for parents to accept than for students, because they have become accustomed in recent years to being in constant contact with their children. If a parent has a grave concern regarding this policy, please contact Helen Small at the Virginia Department of Education at 804-225-3666 or [Helen.Small@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Helen.Small@doe.virginia.gov) no later than June 10. Otherwise, we expect full compliance by students and parents with the established policy. Please note that this policy extends to all summer residential governor's schools administered by the Virginia Department of Education.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#### **What are the academic and social expectations for students?**

Participants need to understand before they arrive that the primary purpose of the Global Village is to offer them a challenging and enriching academic and social program. Each program will include clear expectations for students' class assignments, projects, and other activities. The majority of the student's day is structured with morning classes, afternoon activities, field trips, and evening events. Students will be interacting continually with staff members and other students, and must be able to adapt to an intensive environment. They may be shy or introverted, but they must not insulate themselves from others all of the time. Academy students must be adaptable "team players" and are expected to contribute positively to the academy community through their attitudes and choices.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning by attending classes, completing assignments, participating in group study and practice, and being well prepared to learn each day. This program expects students to be physically as well as mentally motivated to participate fully in both academic and social activities. It is imperative that students assess their own mental and physical health, as well as their motives for attending the Foreign Language Academies, before applying for this program. Faculty and staff are employed as mentors, teachers, and student/resident advisors. The school maintains a very low student to teacher ratio; however, the program is not able to make a one-to-one assignment of student to staff member. For that reason, students should be in good or excellent health, and/or able to demonstrate necessary self-discipline, and if necessary, to self-medicate.

#### **How is the program administered?**

The overall responsibility for the Governor's Foreign Language Academies rests with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). While the program is in session, the Global Village program coordinator and/or academy director has the responsibility for operating the specific program. The director's responsibility is to provide a challenging, academic program and to maintain an atmosphere conducive for participants to meet those challenges. All directors and staffs are dedicated to providing an educational opportunity for motivated students that is commensurate with the abilities and interests of those students. Some of the faculty and staff are themselves former foreign language academy participants.

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### **What is the "typical" daily schedule?**

In order to allow students to make the most of the experience, every day Monday through Saturday includes classes until at least lunch; lectures, field trips, projects and gym time in the afternoon; and evening activities that do not end until shortly before lights out. Sunday mornings are free, but the afternoons and evenings will be packed with activities.

Individual academy schedules and course descriptions will be provided in a mailing in late May. Prospective applicants should take note of the highly-structured nature of a typical day at the academies. There is very little free time and you are expected to participate in all classes and activities.

In addition to classes, students will learn traditional crafts and/or dances, attend guest lectures, watch films in the language or relating to the culture, and even go on several field trips to learn more about the target culture(s) and history. Afternoon activities will include a variety of group projects that students will work on consistently over the three-week period. These vary by academy, but often include video production, newspaper, theater, chorus/music, and the production of a memory DVD that will be distributed to students at the end of the experience. Many of these activities will be highlighted during the joint Global Village Closing Ceremony.

### **Is there free time?**

A small portion of the daily schedule provides for free time. Students may prepare work, read, write letters, do laundry, etc. This time is limited, so students should be prepared to make the most of it.

### **What kinds of recreational and social events are planned?**

Many different recreational activities are provided, including such activities as soccer, Frisbee, dance, and volleyball. Students will often have an opportunity to learn an activity that is new to them. Some events are planned for the enjoyment of the students and to assure a balance of activities. Dances, athletic events, variety shows, banquets, etc., are examples of the social events.

Supervised recreational activities will be available daily, and all students will be expected to participate. However, while there is some time for organized recreation every day, please realize that athletes will have to make adjustments to their usual training. Any academy student may sign up for supervised jogging on Monday through Saturday mornings before breakfast; however, you will not have access to sports facilities during free time.

### **Are there field trips?**

Various field trips may be planned to augment the academic and cultural program. Destinations may include art museums, parks, and other cultural sites.

### **Are grades and credit granted?**

Students receive Certificates of Commendation at the close of each program. Although grades and credit are not given during the academies, you will receive feedback on your work and should be prepared for some homework.

### **Are these programs open to home-schooled students?**

Home-schooled students must submit a completed application to the principal of the appropriate high school in their division of residence. These applications then become part of the school's application and nomination process. The chief administrative officer of the school division in which they reside must nominate home-schooled students.

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### **Are these programs open to Virginia students who attend schools in other states?**

Students who attend private schools outside Virginia but whose parent(s)/guardian(s) reside in Virginia may be nominated by their schools following the same procedure as for public and private schools in Virginia.

### **What is the cost to participants?**

The only program costs to participants are a \$30 materials fee for items produced by and for the students during the academies, and an optional \$15 t-shirt fee. These items become valued keepsakes for academy participants. Each student must also provide his/her own spending money and transportation to and from the program. In the event a student cannot afford these expenses, the school division or private school is encouraged to assist the student with these expenses.

The cost of tuition, room and board, instructional materials, academic field trips, and other activities planned for the program will be paid from state and local funds. The 2008 tuition is expected to be \$1,750. The school division that nominates a student stipulates that it will pay its share of the tuition, not to exceed 50 percent of the total tuition, as determined by the school division's current ability-to-pay composite index. The local share for private schools is 50 percent of the tuition cost, or \$875. The state pays the remaining share.

### **Will students be able to attend religious services during the academies?**

Interested students may attend religious services within close walking distance of the residence hall. Sunday mornings are free, and students who wish to attend religious services on Saturday also have that opportunity. Please know that selections are limited, although we will make our best effort to accommodate your needs. A teacher or RA also attending services will accompany you. Students wishing to attend services must return a signed permission form giving parental permission to attend services off-campus.

### **What other services will be provided for participants?**

The students' health and security are of utmost concern to all staff members. Any illness, whether slight or severe, must be reported immediately to a member of the staff. The director will notify the parents and keep them apprised of the situation. Injured or ill students will be accompanied to Patient First or to the MCV Medical Center. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that the academy director has all necessary medical information, including insurance and inoculation information. Parents are responsible for the payment of all medical and emergency services rendered, including transportation to medical facilities. Any and all medications (including over-the-counter drugs) must be in the original container and must not exceed the amount needed for the duration of the academy, and students must be able to self-medicate.

Students are accompanied by staff members at all times when moving about the campus. Staff members do have cell phones and are able to contact one another or emergency services in the event of a problem. The front desk of the dormitory is manned 24 hours a day and all persons entering must show identification or buzz in using their VCU identification card. There is only one entrance into the residence hall complex. Parents will receive the telephone number for the front desk, along with other contact information, at check-in.

## 2008 GOVERNOR'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMIES GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Other necessary services will be provided for participants. Accommodations are made for individuals with disabilities; please contact the Department for more information concerning those arrangements.

### **Will participants be granted a leave of absence from the program?**

No. A basic principle of the academy atmosphere is the intensity and uninterrupted nature of the experience. Students and parents must understand before applying that the students are making a commitment to remain in the academy for the entire length of the program and are expected to be present from the opening ceremony until the final event scheduled on the last day. If parents or students anticipate conflicts of any kind, the students should not apply. They may not compromise the experience except in the case of a medical or family emergency. Medical and family emergencies include major illness, hospitalization, or death of an immediate family member or guardian.

### **Where does one get additional information about the Governor's Foreign Language Academies?**

The foreign language or gifted education coordinator in your school division, high school principal, head of private school, secondary school counselors, foreign language teacher, or the VDOE can provide details about the program. Applications and general information are available online at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/GAindex.html>. You can also see videos produced during the 2005-2007 academies at <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/academies/index.html>.

## **HELPFUL HINTS ON APPLYING FOR A GOVERNOR'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMY**

It is the responsibility of the student and parent to ensure that all requested personal information is complete, accurate, and legible. Students should request teacher recommendations and transcripts as early as possible. **Incomplete applications received by the VDOE will be returned to the school.**

### **Recommendations**

- Notify your teacher as early as possible that you are interested in being considered for nomination by your school.
- Review the entire application packet before completing the student portion.
- Complete all items and answer questions thoroughly.
- PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY. This application can be completed using a Word file found at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/GAindex.html#Applications>.
- Return the completed and signed student and parent sections to the person in the school responsible for the assembly and submission of the nomination materials. Please allow the school ample time to assemble and mail the packets by the deadline.
- Request teacher recommendations from your current foreign language teacher and one other adult such as a non-foreign language teacher, coach, or advisor. Please allow them at least one week to complete the recommendation.
- Verify with your school that the entire application packet has been postmarked or hand-delivered to Virginia Department of Education by **Thursday, January 17, 2008**. Directions for packaging and mailing are included in the *Guide for School Personnel*, posted online at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/GAindex.html>.
- Include a stamped, self-addressed postcard for verification of receipt by the VDOE.

## 2008 GOVERNOR'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMIES GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

All completed application forms and supporting materials must be postmarked by **Thursday, January 17, 2008**, in order to be considered. No exceptions will be made. The individual at the school responsible for assembly and mailing should return the application to:

### U.S. MAIL

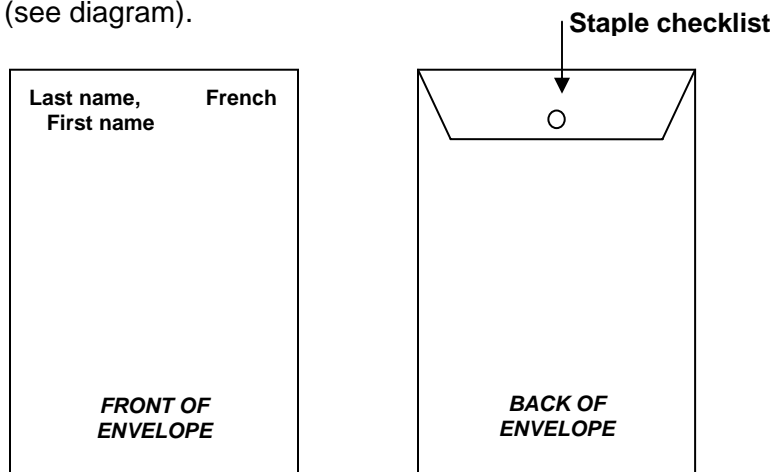
Helen Small  
Specialist for Foreign Languages  
Virginia Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2120  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

### FEDEX/UPS

Helen Small  
Specialist for Foreign Languages  
Virginia Department of Education  
James Monroe Building – 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
101 North Fourteenth Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

### Instructions for assembly of applications

- Use a separate manila envelope (approximately 9" x 12") for each student.
- Neatly label the **FRONT** of the envelope with a black marker as indicated below (see diagram):
  - Student's name (Last name, first name) in the **UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER**
  - Language academy to which the student is applying (French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, or Spanish) in the **UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER**
- Place **ALL** materials for that student into the envelope, except for the checklist (see next page).
  - Keep the checklist separate and use it to ensure that the application packet is complete.
  - Include all documents on the checklist (in order), as well as the immersion speaking tape, envelopes containing the immersion or Latin compositions and signed sheets, Latin grammar test, and optional reply card, as appropriate.
  - Do not use staples to keep any pages of the application together.
- Staple the checklist (see next page) to the **BACK** of the sealed envelope as indicated below (see diagram).



- Repeat the above process for each student.
- Place the labeled manila envelope(s) containing the assembled application(s) into a mailing envelope or box.
  - Please stack applications neatly and do not fold applications.
  - Address and seal the envelope or box.
- Mail to the address above or hand-deliver.



**2008 GOVERNOR'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMIES  
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Selection Committee Evaluation Criteria**

French, German, Spanish Academies

Teacher Recommendations:

- Average of points given by the two teachers recommending
- Teachers' general comments and answers to specific questions

Application:

- Student answers to certain questions; honors, activities
- Academic status (principal's form and transcript with emphasis on target language)
- Language travel/experience (no points given if extensive)

Composition in target language:

- Content
- Clarity of Expression
- Organization
- Vocabulary
- Grammatical Accuracy

Speaking test in target language:

- Amount of communication
- Quality of communication (fluency)
- Pronunciation
- Vocabulary
- Structure

Latin Academy

Teacher Recommendations:

- Average of points given by the two teachers recommending
- Teachers' general comments and answers to specific questions

Application:

- Student answers to certain questions; honors, activities
- Academic status (principal's form and transcript with emphasis on Latin)

Composition in English on Roman topic:

- Content
- Force of reasoning
- Originality and creativity
- Organization: Flow of thought and structure
- Breadth of vocabulary
- Spelling and grammatical accuracy

Grammar test

Japanese and Russian Academies

Teacher Recommendations:

- Average of points given by the two teachers recommending
- Teachers' general comments and answers to specific questions

Application:

- Student answers to certain questions; honors, activities
- Academic status (principal's form and transcript with emphasis on language)

Essay in English:

- Content
- Force of reasoning
- Originality and creativity
- Organization: Flow of thought and structure
- Breadth of vocabulary
- Spelling and grammatical accuracy

Avoid these common errors:

Application postmarked after January 17, 2008

General procedures not followed:

- Application pages out of order
- Missing information/sections
- Second recommendation is from another foreign language teacher
- Missing signatures or Xeroxed signature pages
- Items for same student sent separately
- Cover sheet not completed
- Wrong application form used

Testing procedures not followed:

- Proctor is a foreign language teacher/speaker (includes Latin)
- Missing signatures on student/proctor sheets or envelopes
- Dates/times differ on student/proctor sheets or envelopes

Students at same school tested on different days (all immersion should be on same day; all Latin should be on same day)